WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Computerisation of Punjab Wakf Board

*322. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made, so far, regarding computerization of Punjab Wakf Board; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Quotations were invited by the Punjab Wakf Board (PWB) for computerization. Subsequently, PWB sent a comprehensive proposal to the Ministry. This proposal was examined in the Ministry in consultation with the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Observations made by the NIC have been communicated to PWB. The PWB is taking further action to collect relevant information accordingly and submit revised proposal.

Discontentment on Wage Revision Amongst PSU Employees

*323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the serious discontentment amongst all public sector employees regarding the retrograde guidelines of DPE on wage revision of Central Public Sector;

(b) whether Government are thinking to change the DPE guidelines; and

(c) whether the DPE guidelines are also applicable to the Central Public sector "Navaratna" ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The guidelines for the 6th Round of Wage Negotiation effective from 1-1-97 provide that the next wage negotiation should be after 10 years. This has been represented against.

(b) Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to examine the issue.

(c) Yes Sir.

Export Marketing Support

*324. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) How far the two nodal organisations viz, North Eastern Handlooms and Handicrafts Development Corporation and North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation can provide export marketing support;

(b) whether the Government have taken up any measure to export the surplus of exportable horticultural products of the North East region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) North Eastern Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation provides export marketing support by way of organising design workshops/seminars, publicity and exhibitions for exportable products and participation in trade fairs. North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) undertakes direct export marketing from the North East Region.

NERAMAC is exporting True Potato Seeds to countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal. Consignment of raw rubber and pineapple juice concentrate have also been sent to Nepal. NERMAC is also exploring the possibilities of export marketing of fresh ginger to neighbouring countries.

The Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has also been taking various steps to boost exports of Agricultural and Horticultural products from the North East Region. They have conducted number of quality awareness programmes, export awareness programmes and workshops in the Region.

In addition, in the Exim Policy, double weightage is provided to the exports from the NE region for fulfilling export obligations. There is also a provision to reorganise one State Corporation in each State as Export House in